

a very sticky syrup-like matter, and bees and wasps and other insects are then present in countless numbers. The seeds of this species were collected by Dr. Gustav Niederlein at the Misiones, Entre Rios, Argentina. I have a fine photograph of a whole forest of these grand palms taken by Dr. Niederlein at the time when he collected the seeds.

Cocos australis is another very beautiful and conspicuous palm, very different from all the others in manner of growth, flowering and fruiting. The elegant leaves of a somewhat glaucous hue, are upright, then reclining. The fruit clusters are small, short and slender, consisting of only about a hundred fruits, the size of a cherry. They are of a yellow color, fragrant but are scarcely edible. One of the grandest and at the same time one of the most graceful and elegant palms of my collection.

Cocos campestris.—This is a small dense growing species with a rather slender trunk. The leaves are reclinate, short, bluish-green and the fruit clusters are small and short. The fruit is about the size of a pea, creamy-yellow and scarcely odorous. This is a very ornamental plant and well adapted for pot culture.

C. Pumila is a very elegant little palm with a dense crown of reclinate leaves, light green in color and slightly glaucous. The flowers appear in short pendant clusters and are of a sulphur yellow color. Fruit greenish-white, odorless and as large as a small cherry.

Cocos eriospatha.—This is a very sturdy grower with a short massive trunk and strong recurved leaves, which are, however, not numerous. It has a very decided glaucous color and the whole plant is very distinct. It bears only one or two fruit clusters annually with large whitish plum-like drupes, formed like a peach, that is flattened on both sides. It is very fragrant, juicy and full of sugar, being regarded by connoisseurs as the most delicious of all *Cocos* fruits. The nutlets are not oblong but perfectly round reminding of those of the *C. australis* which are, however, slightly oblong.

Cocos alba is a species very distinct, with long silvery white foliage. It has not yet flowered. This is a very ornamental kind, but the name is undoubtedly incorrect.

Cocos caeruleo-petiolata.—A very beautiful and distinct kind, with very elegant bluish-green foliage, which is carried on violet-blue petioles. I never have seen this palm in any collection and it has not yet flowered with me.

Cocos spec.—A very short-stemmed, short-leaved species with broad pinnate. This was received from Mr. Mead from whom I also received *Cocos Normanbyana*, a stemless kind of much elegance.

Cocos Alphonsei was raised from seeds obtained from the fine large specimens at Belair, the once famous place of General Sanford near Sanford. It is a coarse, but strong growing species, and is certainly distinct from all the rest of my collection. A seven-year-old specimen is fully as tall as my twelve-year-old specimen *C. Yatay*.

There are several other distinct kinds of this group of palms in my garden not yet named.

The flowering of these palms is very interesting. The huge flower scape is enclosed in a very massive club-like spadix, which is slender and pointed in some species and large, thick and rounded in others. In *Cocos Gaertneri* it is as large as a baseball bat and of the same form, and in *C. datil* it is larger. It first stands erect, then it bends downward, bursts with a crash and displays a huge flower cluster with a strong midrib and many side branches, which are grape-like in appearance.

It takes from 6 to 8 weeks until the fruit ripens. Chickens, raccoons and opossums are very fond of the fruit and for this reason I have to bag the clusters. The cluster of *C. datil* is so large that a fertilizer bag (200-pound bag) is not sufficiently large to hold it. But even this precaution did not keep off the squirrels, who are very fond of the nutlets, attacking even the green fruit.

No other palms are so easily accommodated as the various species

of this genus. They grow even well on high dry pine land, but are not adapted to wet soils. They form beautiful specimen plants in a much shorter period than even our common Cabbage Palmetto. Stable manure or Mr. Painter's special brands for this class of plants induce them to grow very vigorously. I can conscientiously recommend these palms to all lovers of beautiful and ornamental plants. Reasoner Bros. grow quite a collection of the different kinds and they are cheap. They are easily transplanted even in a large state. In this case all the fibrous roots surrounding the trunk at its base in dense, net-like masses should be saved as much as possible.

I can not vouch for the correctness of the botanical names as given in the foregoing. I have since years tried to make a specialty of the botany of the palms but found the literature on the subject quite insufficient. Dr. Udo Dammer of the Berlin Botanical Garden, makes a specialty of the study of the garden palms and he has requested me to send him flower spikes, leaves, fruit and photographs of the specimens, but usually I found it impossible to furnish the latter and the preservation of the often very huge flower spikes is very difficult. Dr. O. F. Cook, Tropical Agriculturist of the United States Department of Agriculture, is also much interested in the subject, having published already excellent descriptions of the palms of Porto Rico. Very likely he may in time clear up the chaos of names that now exists, and to determine the different kinds which adorn our gardens.

Cure for Snakebite.

Though we have heard of but few people dying from snake bite since we have been in this state, still they do happen occasionally. It is well to be prepared for all emergencies. The *Valdosta Times* prints an account of the virtues alum has for snake bites. We give it for what it is worth. It certainly could do no harm to carry some alum with you when going into the woods, if it is not as effectual as it is said to be, it will not do any harm to have it and give it a trial, while waiting for the doctor, though as a rule the doctors are helpless in a case of snake bite.

The *Times* last week printed an article detailing the suffering underwent by Mr. Henry Fender, of near Adel, who was recently bitten by a rattlesnake, and telling of the remedies he employed. The articles were reprinted in a number of state papers and has served to bring to light numerous remedies for snake bites. One of the simplest and most vouched for is the alum treatment.

The *Savannah Press* states that the drinking of a strong solution of alum water is almost a sure cure and a Savannah physician has sent the same paper a scrap book, in which the alum theory is more thoroughly developed.

The story is told in this article that something over thirty years ago a rattlesnake crawled out from under a Georgia farm house and instead of killing it, one of the party who detected the reptile asked permission to try an experiment. So he stepped out, pulled off his boot and sock and kicked the reptile in the mouth with his naked foot. Of course the reptile bit him on the foot. The man went behind the house, swallowed something and returning pulled off the other boot and sock and made the snake bite the other foot. Once more the wounded man retired behind the house, took something in his hand, came back, killed the snake, put on his boots and resumed his seat among his astonished friends. The crowd of course begged him to tell them what he took when he went around the house. He said that when out on the Rocky mountains, where there are a great many rattlesnakes, people carry alum in their pockets and as soon as bitten they break off and swallow a piece of alum the size of a nut. It

will act as an antidote for the poison of the most venomous snake. That was what he took when the Georgia snake bit him and hundreds of people in the South to whom this remedy has been given report a successful trial in snake bite.

A man who hunted a great deal in the mountains of North Georgia always carried a pocket full of alum and if one of his dogs was bitten by a rattlesnake he would pour alum down the dog's throat, and the animal would go on in the hunt. The theory of the action of the drug is that as soon as the alum reaches the stomach the bile gushes out of the bile tubes into the intestines and no doubt regurgitates into the stomach, which is irritated by the presence of the alum.

This leads an Atlanta physician to say that a piece of alum the size of the finger, chewed and swallowed seems to be a perfect cure for the most poisonous snake bite.

A Florida Apple Orchard.

There are quite a number of the friends of Mr. A. A. Boggs, of Coconut Grove, who are aware that he owns an apple orchard in North Carolina, but few have an idea of its great extent.

Mr. Boggs' orchard is located in the fine apple-growing section of Western North Carolina and he goes there every fall to superintend the shipping and sale of his crop.

A few days ago the third series of farmers' institutes were held in Raleigh, and in connection with them a writer in the *Wilmington Messenger* says:

"Professor Hume, who was in charge of one of the parties of institute conductors, visited a number of apple orchards, including that of A. A. Boggs, at Waynesville, which covers 70 acres, and which is the largest and finest bearing orchard in the state, the trees being about 20 years old and embracing 29 varieties. Mr. Boggs sells his fruit in the south, in carload lots, and is now getting from \$3 to \$4 for it. His trees are in first class condition, and are loaded with fruit, in fact the limbs of many nearly reaching the breaking point. His crops will probably reach 3,000 barrels. Professor Hume says that section and the Brushy Mountain section of North Carolina have no superior for apple-growing, and that after a while this will be the most noted apple region in the country."—*Miami News*.

Neptune, Fla., June 16, 1905.

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